REMARKS

In the copies of the drawings submitted herewith, it proposed to designate the enlarged view of the seat B as a separate figure 1a. The connecting line between Figure 1 and Figure 1a will be deleted and Figures 1, 1a, 2 and 3 will be designated as "PRIOR ART". Upon approval of the proposed changes, the drawings will be corrected in accordance with the accepted procedures.

In the last Office Action, the drawings were further objected to because the reference numerals 2, 5 and 6 as used in Figure 4 are also present in Prior Art Figure 2. However, the elements designated by these numbers are identical in the prior art embodiment and in the embodiment according to the present invention. In this instance, the use of identical reference numerals is acceptable and it is not deemed necessary to change the numerals in Figure 4.

In the last Office Action, claim 2 was rejected under U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over von Schwerdtner et al. Claim 2 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the claim over the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

As discussed previously, the gas-lift valve of the present invention as shown in Figure 4, is not intended to control the flow of gas in an on-off manner through the orifice since the valve works at all times in the "open" position. In order to allow the

gas to pass from the casing to the tubing, it is necessary to keep the pressure differential between the tubes constant. Thus this type of valve does not need a specific seat which cooperates with a movable valve member to "close" the valve.

The patent to von Schwerdtner et al. however discloses a valve which may be opened and closed by moving the valve member 3 into and out of engagement with the valve seat 4. As a result of the movement of the valve member, a flow of steam or similar medium may be throttled through the interior of the valve housing. Minimization of alternating forces tending to excite the valve member into oscillating and stabilization of the flow with the medium in the channel disposed downstream of the valve seat, are achieved by the provision of internal ribs within such a passage. Since the present invention does not have a valve member which is movable into and out of engagement with the valve seat, there is absolutely no need for the ribs within the continuously open passage in the valve seat.

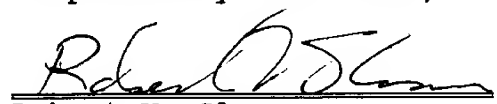
Claim 2 has been amended to specifically set forth that the passage consists of a curved inlet portion defining a nozzle in which gas flow is speeded up, a smooth, straight intermediate portion providing a main restriction for gas flow and a smooth, outwardly tapered conical shaped outlet portion in which said gas flow is gradually slowed down. Therefore in view of the fact that claim 2 specifically calls for a valve seat having a continuously open passage having a smooth nozzle, the claim is considered to be

patentable over the teachings of von Schwerdtner et al. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that claim 2 be allowed and the Application passed to issue forthwith.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account no. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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